

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 25, 2003

6:30 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. Board members present were Chair Hilda Testa, Vice-Chair Julie Aitken, and Jason Hurley. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Barbara Spiece and Jacque Daniels were absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 25, 2003

Mr. Hurley made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Aitken, to approve the minutes of February 25, 2003. In a voice vote, with Ms. Spiece and Ms. Daniels being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Equestrian Deed Restrictions for New and Existing Developments

Vice-Chair Aitken presented the draft of the proposed Davie Right To Hobby Farm Act which the Board reviewed and made several corrections. Vice-Chair Aitken said she would prepare the final draft incorporating these changes.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding deed restriction enforcement. Chair Testa commented that the Town's permission was not needed to deed restrict a resident's property; however, the deed restriction could not be easily removed. She added that deed restrictions would most likely be enforced by a neighbor.

Vice-Chair Aitken suggested that a letter be forwarded to the Town Council and copied to Town Administrator Thomas Willi with a recommendation that the Town adopt the proposed right to farm act as a new Town ordinance.

3.2 Nob Hill Equestrian Crossing

Chair Testa indicated that at a recent Broward County Commission meeting, a committee was formed that would be responsible to get county-wide signage so that every equestrian community would have the same type of signs. She added that in addition to the signs, the committee was asking that certain areas have light crossings with a flashing yellow light that would flash red when the crossing button was pushed.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Aitken reported that there was a bill in the Legislature which amended Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes. She explained that this was a duplication of the language of the Right to Farm Act which was being placed into another statute that reinforced the exemptions for farms.

Vice-Chair Aitken advised that the Fourth District Court of Appeals had ruled on the Pompano case which was in the agreement with the Third District Court of Appeals, which stated that horse boarding and training was an agricultural use and entitled to agricultural classification. She indicated that permission had been given to the Property Appraiser's Office by the Department of Revenue to proceed with a lawsuit against the Value Adjustment Board. A brief discussion followed regarding the reason for the lawsuit and the number of farms which could be affected by the lawsuit.

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 25, 2003

Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that at the March 24th Council meeting, Councilmember Paul apprised Council of the two court cases as well as the lawsuit. She added that Council would be writing a resolution objecting to the continued harassment of farmers in Broward County which would be forwarded to the Department of Revenue.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There was a brief discussion regarding the definition of a farm with Vice-Chair Aitken commenting that the agricultural classification should be automatically renewed like the Homestead Exemption. She explained that the changes to the automatic renewal were made by the Department of Revenue; however, the Farm Bureau would be lobbying to have this changed back to automatic renewals.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member